

Mapping Your Local Community

Grade Level: 3rd – 4th grades

Materials

1. Beige or white shower curtain
2. Copy of early map(s) of the local community, before streets or roads were built.
3. Transparency made of the map(s)
4. Overhead projector
5. Permanent markers

Directions

1. Make a transparency of the map(s).
2. Have students trace a copy of the map from the transparency onto the shower curtain with the permanent markers.
3. Show a river or stream or any characteristics that were there before the arrival of settlers.
4. Using this as a floor map, you can show how various Native American and immigrant groups made changes to the landscape and contributions in the development of your local community.
5. These changes can follow a time line showing where a local Native group had their wigwams or longhouses and their villages; where fur-traders built their posts; where early settlers put their settlements, and eventually how your community developed from a village, town, and into a city.

Carol VanEck – Odyssey 2000 Award Winner
Grand Rapids Public Schools